

Serial No. **10/717,936**

Docket No. **K-0557**

Amdt. dated August 16, 2006

Reply to Office Action of May 16, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawings include changes to Figure 3. This sheet, which includes Figure 3, replaces the original sheet including Figure 3. In Figure 3, previously labeled element number 85 has been relabeled element number 82, consistent with the description thereof in the specification. No new matter is added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (1)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings, Abstract, specification, claims 1, 3-12 and 16-23 are amended, and claims 2 and 13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The drawings, Abstract, specification and claims are amended for clarification purposes only. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Informalities

The Office Action objects to claim 3 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c). It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 3 are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and that claim 3 meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c). Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,896,641 to Worst (hereinafter "Worst"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a water supply assembly for a washing machine. Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a water supply valve assembly configured to control a supply of water to the detergent box assembly, wherein the water supply valve assembly is positioned above the detergent box assembly, and a hose configured to connect the detergent box assembly to the water supply valve assembly, wherein the hose is oriented at a downward

slant from the water supply valve assembly to the detergent box assembly based on a relative vertical positioning of the water supply value assembly and the detergent box assembly, and wherein the detergent box assembly is provided under a top plate of the washing machine and the water supply valve assembly is provided over the top plate. Independent claim 12 is directed to a washing machine, comprising, *inter alia*, a water supply valve assembly positioned above the detergent box assembly and configured to control a supply of water to the detergent box assembly, wherein the water supply valve is configured to be connected to the detergent box assembly by a hose which is oriented at a slant based on a relative positioning of the water supply assembly and the detergent box assembly, and wherein the detergent box assembly is provided under the top plate of the washing machine and the water supply valve assembly is provided over the top plate. Worst neither discloses nor suggests at least features, or the claimed combination of features.

Worst discloses a vertical agitator type washing machine 10, including a basket 14 positioned in a wash tub 12 to receive clothes to be washed. Clean hot and cold wash water is supplied to the tub 12 by a valve assembly 54 connected to hot and cold water conduits 56 and 58. A motor 34, transmission 32 and flexible coupling 36 rotate an agitator 30 positioned in the basket 14. Wash water is drained from the tub 12 through a conduit 42 into a recirculating pump 40. The recirculating pump 40 pumps the recirculated water out into a conduit 44, where it is forced up to a fluidic switch 48 which operates based on a signal from a cycle timing device 28.

A filter-dispenser 70 is positioned at the top of the tub 12, and has a series of three chambers 74, 76 and 78 which each hold a wash agent. As different portions of the wash cycle are encountered, the fluidic switch 48 operates to introduce recirculated water into an appropriate one of the chambers 74, 76, 78 through a corresponding conduit 86, 88, 90, respectively, so as to allow the recirculated water from the pump 40/conduit 44 to flush the wash agent into the basket 14.

The recirculating pump 40 and conduit 44 (compared in the Office Action to the water supply valve assembly recited in independent claims 1 and 12) are clearly positioned well below the filter-dispenser 70 (compared in the Office Action to the detergent box assembly recited in independent claims 1 and 12). Worst neither discloses nor suggests a water supply valve assembly positioned above a detergent box assembly, as recited in independent claims 1 and 12, let alone a detergent box assembly provided under a top plate and a water supply valve assembly provided over the top plate, as recited in independent claims 1 and 12.

Further, if the valve assembly 54 which provides clean hot and cold water to the washing machine 10 were instead compared to the water supply valve assembly recited in independent claims 1 and 12, it is respectfully submitted that Worst still fails to disclose or suggest the water supply valve assembly as recited in independent claims 1 and 12. That is, the valve assembly 54 disclosed by Worst is clearly positioned below the filter-dispenser 70, and is in no way connected thereto. Thus, Worst neither discloses nor suggests a water supply valve assembly positioned above a detergent box assembly, let alone a hose configured to connect these elements, as recited

in independent claims 1 and 12, let alone that the detergent box assembly and the water valve assembly are respectively provided under and over a top plate, as recited in independent claims 1 and 12.

Additionally, the Office Action asserts that Figure 2 of Worst shows the conduits 86, 88 and 90 to be at an angled position leading into the chambers 74, 76 and 78, respectively. However, it is respectfully submitted that is merely due to the perspective orientation of Figure 2 of Worst. More specifically, as clearly shown in the front sectional view provided in Figures 1 and 4 of Worst, the conduits 86, 88 and 90 extend upward from the fluidic switch 48 and through a 90 degree bend leading substantially horizontally into the respective chamber 74, 76, 78. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that neither the conduit 44 nor the conduits 86, 88, 90 (which are, in combination, the conduits which connect the pump 40 to the filter-dispenser 70, and thus may be compared to the hose recited in independent claims 1 and 12) are not positioned at a slant, as is the hose recited in independent claims 1 and 12.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 12 are not anticipated by Worst, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Worst should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Worst. Claims 2 and 13 are canceled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to claims 3 and 14, is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 3 and 14 are allowable over Worst at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 12, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. Further, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to modify the washing machine 10 disclosed by Worst in the manner suggested in the Office Action. More specifically, it is respectfully submitted that incorporation of the features recited in these claims is not simply an obvious rearrangement of parts. Such rearrangement would require complete redesign of the cabinet and control panel structure of Worst's machine, not to mention a complete redesign of the water supply, flow path, and drain scheme disclosed by Worst, thus destroying the originally intended utility and functionality of the washing machine disclosed by Worst. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 14 are allowable over Worst, and thus the rejection of claims 3 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Worst should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 4-11 and 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Worst in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,125,881 to Hobbs et al. (hereinafter "Hobbs"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 4-11 and 15-23 are allowable over Worst at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 12, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. Further Hobbs is merely cited as allegedly teaching a slanted installation of parts, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Worst. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-11 and 15-23 are allowable over the applied combination,

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and thus the rejection of claims 4-11 and 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Worst and Hobbs should be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

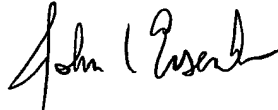
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and
please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



John C. Eisenhart
Registration No. 38,128
Joanna K. Mason
Registration No. 56,408

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 DYK:JCE:JKM/ah

Date: August 16, 2006

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610



FIG. 3

